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REMARKSGroup Election

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the following Species for each of the identified Groups:

Group I: Species I-B, water.

Group II: Species II-B, multilayer protective membrane.

Group III: Species III-A, solid-state lithium metal.

Election of an Ultimate Species

Claims 10 and 11, depending from claim 2, have been amended for clarification to recite that a first material component of the protective composite separator comprises the composite reaction product of Li (or, in claim 10, active metal) with Cu_3N . Support for this claim amendment can be found at page 11, lines 22-26, page 12, lines 21-29, page 13 lines 1-2, and page 14, lines 1-8, for example. Entry of this amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

Consequent from the election of Group II-B, the following election of species are made:

For the first material component: the composite reaction product of Li with Cu_3N ;

For the second material component: the glass-ceramic recited in claim 13.

Identification of the Claims Encompassing the Elected Invention

The claims readable on the elected ultimate species (including all of the above species elections) are claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8-14, 19-21 and 23.

Generic Claim

Regarding the Examiner's indication that there is currently no generic claim, Applicant's respectfully request clarification. For at least the following reasons Applicants submit that Claim 1 is generic:

Group I

Claim 1 describes a cathode structure having a fluid oxidant which is generic to Species I-A (air), I-B (water) and I-C (hydrogen peroxide) as the fluid oxidants respectively;

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Group II

Claim 1 describes a protective membrane comprising one or more materials having a first and second surface which is generic and includes at least Species II-A (single layer protective membrane, such as noted at page 16, lines 4-10 of the application) and Species II-B (multi-component (e.g., multilayer) protective membrane, such as the laminate or graded embodiments recited in claims 2, 7, 8 and 10-13 and described in the specification at page 8, lines 9 to page 16, line 3, for example) among other possibilities.

Group III

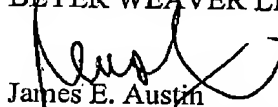
Claim 1 describes a renewable active metal anode which is generic to Species III-A (solid state lithium) and III-B (lithium metal dissolved in a suitable solvent).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is generic.

It is understood upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim.

If any additional fees not submitted with this filing are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. PlusP038).

Respectfully submitted,
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